GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:242
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2005
CLOSING DOWN DOWNGRADING OF POST OFFICES
Krishnadas Shri N.N.

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to close down or downgrade certain post offices in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the post offices downgraded or closed down during the last one year in the country; State/Circle-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 242 FOR 10TH AUGUST, 2005 REGARDING CLOSING DOWN/DOWNGRADING OF POST OFFICES.

(a) to (c) No general policy decision has been taken to close down post offices in the country. Closure of a post office is resorted to only in unavoidable circumstances. However, a decision has been taken to merge or relocate to needy areas those single and double handed post offices located in urban areas which do not fulfil the distance norm. It has also been decided that Extra Departmental Branch Offices/Extra Departmental Sub Offices in normal rural areas which do not fulfil the current distance norm for opening post offices should be relocated to needy areas. This is in consonance with the policy directives contained in the 10th Five Year Plan which, inter-alia, require the Department to rationalize its network and optimize its resources with a view to achieving financial self sufficiency while continuing to fulfil its Universal Service Obligation.

Downgradation of post offices, wherever warranted, is a routine administrative exercise that is undertaken to bring the status of the post office on par with its workload. Therefore, downgradation of a post office is dependent on the outcome of the establishment review that is carried out, as per fixed periodicity.

During 2004-05, 30 post offices were closed due to problems of poor accommodation, submersion of the localities due to dam construction, heavy financial loss and availability of post office in close proximity etc., out of over 1,55,000 post offices. 172 post offices were also merged and 56 post offices relocated to needy areas. 123 post offices were downgraded during the same period. Circle-wise details of all these offices are given in the Annexure.

ANNEXURE

DETAILS OF POST OFFICES CLOSED, MERGED, RELOCATED AND DOWNGRDED DURING 2004-05.

Sl No.	Name of the Circle	No. of POs Closed	No. of POs Merged	No. of POs Relocated	No. of Pos Downgraded
1	Andhra Pradesh	5	1	3	1
2	Assam	3	Nil	2	1
3	Bihar	1	Nil	1	Nil
4	Chhattisgarh	Nil	1	Nil	Nil
5	Delhi	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
6	Gujarat	Nil	38	8	7
7	Haryana	Nil	7	Nil	Nil
8	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
9	Jammu & Kashmir	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
10	Jharkhand	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
11	Karnataka	Nil	30	6	39
12	Kerala	Nil	3	5	18
13	Madhya Pradesh	3	28	Nil	4
14	Maharashtra	6	11	2	Nil
15	North East	3	Nil	3	1

16	Orissa	Nil	14	3	47
17	Punjab	6	2	10	Nil
18	Rajasthan	Nil	14	7	4
19	Tamil Nadu	Nil	21	1	Nil
20	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	1	2	1
21	Uttaranchal	Nil	1	Nil	Nil
22	West Bengal	Nil	Nil	2	Nil
	Total	30	172	56	123

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